1509 Main Street, Suite 900 Dallas, Texas 75201-4809

214/744-1641



ICF TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dave Wineman, EPA Region VI RPO

FROM: K. H. Malone, Jr., FITOM

THRU: Tim A. Hall, AFTTOM JA JARA

FROM: James Hussey, FIT Geologist

DATE: August 26, 1988

SUBJ: PA Reassessment for Nalco Chemical Co., Odessa, TX

TDD #F-06-8804-34 CERCLIS #TXD095217766 PAN #FIX 0067PAA

The Nalco Chemical Company is an oilfield chemical warehouse and transport facility located on a 15.5 acre tract in Odessa, TX. Products stored and transported at the site are corrosion and scale inhibitors, oil/water emulsion breakers, biocides, and various water treatment chemicals. No manufacturing or blending of chemicals or products occurs at the facility. Structures present on the site include a warehouse, an office building, 30 bulk storage tanks, and a below-grade surface impoundment used as a pollution control pond. This site has been in operation since 1976.

The main area of concern has been the pollution control pond. The dimensions of this pond are approximately 75 ft. x 80 ft. x 8 ft. The site operators kept a two-foot freeboard on this pond to prevent overflow. This gave a normal operating volume of 102,000 gallons, although the maximum amount of water ever held in the pond is reported to be 157,000 gallons. The pond has a seamless Gunnite lining installed to prevent leakage. This lining is reported to be of good integrity (see ROC 1). From 1976 to 1985 the pond was used as a catch basin for wash water from the truck loading/unloading area located on the edge of the pond, and the tank farm and drum storage area. These areas are curbed and drain into a concrete-lined trench, which empties into an oil separator and finally into the pond. The only waste reported to be produced on the site is a floating oily sludge that is collected in the oil separator and disposed off-site. The wash water is temporarily stored in the pond and eventually used as flush water in oil wells.

On January 26, 1984, the Texas Water Commission (TWC) obtained liquid samples from the pond. The analysis showed a mixture of approximately 50% alkyl benzenes, with alkyl naphthalenes, substituted indenes, indanes, biphenyls, and a trace of aliphatic hydrocarbons (see Attachment A). No contamination by

these substances of groundwater is suspected, although no groundwater samples have been taken to confirm this.

On November 8, 1985, an agreement was reached between Nalco and the EPA that allowed Nalco to change the procedure in which they would utilize the collection pond (see Attachments B and C). All substances in the pond were removed and disposed according to EPA requirements. The Gunnite liner was inspected, found to be in sound condition, and cleaned with pressurized steam. A concrete pad was constructed in the bottom of the impoundment and two steel storage tanks were installed atop the pad for collection of liquids (see Attachments D, E, and F). The Gunnite liner will be used as a secondary containment structure.

In 1985, soil samples from near the collection pond were taken by the TWC. If analyses showed contamination the site owners were to install monitor wells at various points on-site. However these samples contained no contamination (see ROC 1. Sample results are not available to the FTT at this time).

Previous FIT activity at the site consists of a Preliminary Assessment performed by EPA Region VI FIT personnel in April 1981. A recommendation for no further action was issued at that time. EPA personnel have been involved with Nalco in order to oversee proper disposal of the pond contents.

Drinking water for this area is obtained from wells drilled into the Antlers Sand of the Edwards/Trinity Aquifer. This sand unit is initially found at 50 to 75 feet below the ground surface. There is no documented use of surface water in the area, as only several small playa lakes are found in the vicinity. A very low precipitation amount and high evaporation rate cause an arid climate in the region. There is no documentation of hazardous materials in the groundwater or air. This site will not achieve a sufficient score for inclusion on the NPL. The FIT therefore recommends no further action at this time.

RECORD OF COMMUNICATION	X Phone Call Discussion Field Trip
1	Conference Other (Specify)
<u> </u>	
TO:	(Record of Item Checked Above) FROM: DATE
James Hussey	Terry James 7/5/88
ICF FIT (214) 744-1641	Texas Water Commission, Odessa, TX TIME (915) 362-6997 0905
SUBJECT Nalco Chemical (20 Odossa TV
SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION	
Mr. James returned	d a call to him made by the FIT. He gave the following answers
to questions given to him	m by the FIT: 1) When asked about the integrity of the Gumnite
liner in the pond he said	that the pond had been emptied, steam cleaned, inspected and
found to be in good cond	ition, further reinforced, and had two large storage tanks place
in it. 2) Samples taken	near the pond came back free of contamination. 3) No monitor
wells were installed due	to the clean samples. 4) The onsite drinking wells have not
been sampled to his know	ledge. 5) The registrations/permits are in order.
He further stated ti	nat he makes a visual inspection every 6 months to 1 year. He
last visited the site 4.	5 months ago and everything looked fine on-site.
CONCLUSIONS, ACTION TAKE	Y OR REQUIRED
	
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INFORMATION COPIES	
TO:	
EPA FORM 1300-6 (7-72)	

EPA FORM 1300-6 (7-72)
Replaces EPA HQ Form 5300-3 Which May Be Used Until Supply is Exhausted.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GC/MS ANALYSIS REPORT EPA PRIORITY POLLUTANTS

BUNCE OF BUILDING

BY COMPARISON WITH EPA/NIH MASS.SPECTRAL LIBRART. QUANTITATION EH40391 IS PROVIDED, AND THE VALUES SHOULD BE RECARDED AS APPROXIMATE. MITST: T. Campbell MIT: 31 JAN 84 THE SAPLE MUTECE: IM SMILL MIET: 5W G2824 LIQUID WASTE . ALL ENTT PACES BELOW INDICATE HOME DETECTED . SWILL COMMITTON: THATACT TENTATIVE COMPOUND IDENTIFICATION ACID EXTRACTABLES IN ICHECK CHED () HICKOCRANS/LITER () HILLICHANS/EILCCHAN : See below. PHENCE 4-OLORO-3-CI[SOL 4-KITHONEUQ. DEBLAK! 2,4,6-TRIDEGEOPIENCE 2,6-91H1126-2-CRESSE 2-41110FIENCE 2,4-SINE INTLINEURL PENTACHEMENT 2,4-BIDLEONE 2,4-BINTTEOPHENOL PASE MEUTRAL EXTRACTABLES IN IDNECT ONE I () INTEROCRAMS/LITER () INTLICOMAS/ITLOGRAMS B-41180SD-4-BINETHTLANINE ACEMPHINTLENE FLUORANTIENE bis-12-DEDECETHEN ETIER DIRETHYL PHYMLATE PYREM 1.3-STOLENGESTERE 2.4-BINITESTELLE ENIMA 1,+HOLDODODE **ACCIMPATIENT** MITTERET PHINKATE 1.2-HOLDERGEREE 2,4-Dinimorauen MINICOL MINISTER \$11-12-OLDERISOPIOPYL)ETIER FLUCKER **SETTINE** HE SACRE CROSE THANKS 4-DAUTOPIENTE PIENTE EILET 1,3.-BIDVOLOBENZIBINE 4-4178050-91-4-PEDTE MINE BIRTHY PHYMLATE DIS-12-ET ITLIENTE PHINE ATE BITTO DE DIPHOULMINE DI-1-OCTIL PHINKLATE 120HORDE H-41 TEGREDIPHENTLANINE ECICE INCUMANTEE bis-(2-DLORGETIGET) HETIME 1,2-SIMERUMBATIK MINTO (A) JT LUTHMITHEDE 1.2.4-TRICHEROMENTE 4-MOUDIENT PIENT (THEY MERICIAL TRUE MALTINEER NEW DESIGNATION COMMENTS AND OTHER REDUESTED ANALYSES: 1000011,2,3-c619720C NETHOLOGISM MINISTER PHERMATRICE BINCO (4, b) MITTHACT NE This sample contains HEMOREMOCTOL GPOST AD ILLE MINERALDIE MENTED (SEA MERTLE) 2-OLOGOWATHALDE DI-0-BUTTL PHINNLATE of arematic solvents and compounds PERTICIPER IN IDEAL DET () NICHARANTATIES () NICLEMANATIONM : 50% alkyl bonzanes (from to.ne eighe-DC ALM IV MULEU DESUM benzenes), the remainder are es-r-BC 44/100 EMOSSE /# SELFATE beta-BC DIES MIN DOLLA napathalanes (corocs), substituted indome, biphenyls, and a trac delta-MC 4.4'-888 alaha-iBC KITADLE 4.4'-907 HET HOLDE ET CELLE ENDRIE ALBORTE VELATILE DESANIES IN LOCKET ONE! (TRICEDERANS/LIFE () MILLIPPANS/EILDERAN : aliphratic hydrocarbons. MI CHARGE THE 1,2-BIDGARGE INNE 1,1,2-181CH CHOS THOSE MONDY THANK CARRON TETRACHEDRINE 2-COLORDETHTEVENTE FINES VINTL OLDER PROVED I CAL DEDNE I HAVE THICK OF SETTINGLES DE CHOETIME! MOUT CLA

TOLETE

FIRST WAR AND THE STREET

SIGNATURE

TENTATIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE TEN LARGEST MON PRIORITY COLLUTA

DATE

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	Method of Flow Measurement	
	PERMIT NUMBER PAGE DATE ST Chlorine Contact Time Date Shipped Date Shi	
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APPROXIMATE CONCENTRATIONS AS D-10 ANTHRACENE HICROGRAMS/LITER TENTATIVE COMPOUND () MILLIGRAMS/KILOGRAM **IDENTIFICATION** 2-methyl-24-pentenedial 75000 180,000 2,3-dihydro-nethyl indene 11000 Cc- benzenes 23000 21000 COMMENTS AND OTHER REQUESTED ANALYSES: ALSU WUANTITATED (43/L) -2- methyl naphthalone 14000 1- methyl naphthalone 9200 biphonyl 3400

TENTATIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE TEN LARGEST NON-PRIORITY POLLUTANT PEAKS BY COMPARISON WITH EPA/NIH MASS SPECTRAL LIBRARY. QUANTITATION AS DIO-ANTHRACE

IS PROVIDED, AND THE VALUES SHOULD BE REGARDED AS APPROXIMATE.

SIGNATURE

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APR - 8 1985

Buhandle albert 3/24/55

TEXAS DEPARTHENT OF HEALTH GC/MS ANALYSIS REPORT EPA PRIORITY POLLUTANTS

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THE SAMPLE MUNICE: 12 A 477 A 77

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SAMELE THE: LIQUID WASTE

SAMPLE CONDITION:

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TENTATIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE TEN LARGEST NON PRIORITY POLLUTANT PEAKS BY COMPARISON WITH EPA/NIH MASS SPECTRAL LIDRARY. BUANTITATION AS DIO-ANTHRACEN IS PROVIDED, AND THE VALUES SHOULD BE RECARDED AS APPROXIMATE.

TENTATIVE COMPOUND IDENTIFICATION	APPROXIMATE CONCENTRATION AS D-10 ANTHRACENE () HICROGRAMS/LITER () MILLIGRAMS/XILOGRA
(z-benzene.	3,400,000
Cy- benzenes	74,000,000
C5- benzones	37,000,000
213-dihydro-methyl-1H-indene	6,500,00c
	•••••

••••••	

COMMENTS AND OTHER REQUESTED ANALYSES: IPR 1 8 1985

ALSO QUANTITATE D:

p-xylene 71000 49/L

cumene 36000 49/L

3-methyl naphthalene 3,900,000 43/L

1-methyl naphthalene 3,100,000 49/L

biphenyl 620,400 49/L

dibenzofuran 40,000 49/L

Buchard a albert 4/8/85

VINSON & ELKINS ATTORNEYS AT LAW

FIRST CITY CENTRE

SIG CONGRESS AVENUE

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2496

TELEPHONE 512 495-8400

3300 FIRST CITY TOWER
IOOI FANNIN
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-6760
TELEPHONE 713 651-2222
CABLE VINELKINS-TELEX 762 146

47 CHARLES ST., BERKELEY SQUARE
LONDON WIX 7PB, ENGLAND
TELEPHONE 01 441 491-7236
CABLE VINELKINS LONDON WI-TELEX 24140

SUITE 900
HOLCONNECTICUT AVE. N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036-4303
TELEPHONE 202 862-8500
CABLE VINELKINS-TELEX 89680

November 22, 1985

Mr. Dick Whittington
United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Region VI
1201 Elm Street
InterFirst Two Building
Dallas, Texas 75270

Attention: Ms. Carla Nelson

Re: In the Matter of Nalco Chemical Company

Odessa, Texas

Docket Number RCRA VI-508-H

Dear Mr. Whittington:

In accordance with the oral agreement reached in the referenced matter between representatives of EPA Region VI and of Nalco Chemical Company on November 8, 1985, Nalco submits herewith a notification of hazardous waste activity, a revised Part A application, and a closure plan for the impoundment, which was the subject of the referenced matter. In submitting these documents, Nalco does not concede the applicability of the federal hazardous waste management program to its impoundment. As Nalco explained in the response it filed in the referenced matter on October 30, 1985, the materials in the impoundment are not solid wastes and are beneficially used.

Nalco and EPA agreed, however, that Nalco would file the enclosed documents as part of the compromise of the referenced matter. It is for this reason that the enclosed documents are being submitted. The entire agreement is in the process of being reduced to writing and will contain each of the points agreed to by Nalco and the agency. Mr. Dick Whittington November 22, 1985 Page 2

If you have any questions concerning these submissions, please contact Mr. Ham Hurst of Nalco.

Very truly yours,

Jeff Civins

JC:sg

Enclosures

cc: Will Foht, EPA Region VI

Christy Smith, Texas Water Commission

Ham Hurst, Nalco

Audra Karalius, Nalco

VINSON & ELKINS ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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47 CHARLES ST., BERKELEY SOUARE
LONDON WIX 7PB, ENGLAND
TELEPHONE OI 441 491-7236
TABLE VINELRINS LONDON WI-TELEX 2440

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WASHINGTON. D. C. 20036-4303
TELEPHONE 202 862-6500
CABLE VINELKINS-TELEX 89680

February 18, 1986

Minor Hibbs
Texas Water Commission
P.O. Box 13087
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Nalco Chemical Company -- Odessa, Texas Facility
RCRA Docket No. VI-508-H

Dear Mr. Hibbs:

As you know, the Odessa facility of Nalco Chemical Company has been referred by the Commission to Region VI of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is the subject of an administrative proceeding. The critical issue in that proceeding is whether the Gunite lined impoundment at the facility is subject to regulation under the hazardous waste management program of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

In a meeting with representatives of EPA Region VI and of the Commission (Ms. Christy Smith), agreement in principle between the agencies and Nalco was reached. In accordance with that agreement, Nalco submitted a closure plan to the Commission and to the EPA, in which Nalco agreed to install two above-ground, fully inspectable tanks to store the product tank truck and barrel rinsewater that Nalco uses as makeup water for injecting Nalco products down into customer oil and gas wells.

By a separate letter to EPA Region VI, a copy of which is attached, Nalco requested a confirmation from the region

that its installation of these tanks and its beneficial reuse of the rinsewater is not subject to RCRA regulation. By this letter, Nalco requests that the Commission confirm this understanding as well.

Sincerely,

Jeff Civins

JC/mlh

cc: Carla S. Nelson, EPA Region VI Audra Karalius, Nalco Chemical Company

VINSON & ELKINS ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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October 31, 1985

Ms. Mary Kale
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
1201 Elm Street
Dallas, Texas 75270

Re: Docket Number RCRA VI-508-H

Dear Mary:

Thank you for arranging, on short notice, the October 30, 1985 meeting between representatives of EPA Region VI and Nalco to discuss the referenced matter. The list of those in attendance is attached. As EPA pointed out, we understand that this meeting was not a "settlement conference," because of the absence of representatives of the Texas Water Commission who desired to participate in the settlement. Accordingly, we rescheduled the settlement conference for Friday, November 8, at 10:30 A.M. at your offices, so that Commission representatives could attend.

In our October 30 meeting, we discussed issues of concern to both Nalco and EPA that would need to be addressed at the November 8 conference to effect a settlement. We generally were in agreement that Nalco's use of the product-laden water to flush product down customer wells made sense environmentally and was authorized under the RCRA program as a beneficial use for which a RCRA treatment, storage, disposal (TSD) permit was unnecessary.

EPA did express concern, however, over the presence, from time-to-time, of ignitable material in the impoundment, in which the product-laden water previously had been stored. In response to that concern, Nalco had agreed to terminate use of the impoundment for storing the product-laden water and to install storage tanks instead. As Nalco explained, the use of the impoundment already has ceased; the water that previously went into the impoundment currently is

routed to existing storage tanks. The impoundment is being cleaned out and the remaining sediment is being tested for characterization prior to disposal. Nalco does not anticipate that the sediment will be found to be hazardous. The impoundment then will be cleaned in accordance with sound engineering practice and with any applicable regulatory requirements.

As Nalco explained, the impoundment was constructed of gunnite, with no seams. After the impoundment has been emptied and cleaned, a concrete pad will be constructed on the floor of the impoundment and the storage tanks installed. The juncture of the pad and the impoundment floor will be sealed to prevent leakage. The tanks will be placed on the pad, above the floor of the impoundment. The impoundment sides will act as a dike, performing the same function as the concrete dikes that surround the concrete pads on which Nalco's other tanks are located. Any rainwater that falls directly on the impoundment will be pumped into these tanks; the water that previously went to the impoundment will be pumped directly to the tanks. Nalco and EPA were in agreement that this approach appeared to be environmentally sound and consistent with EPA regulations.

EPA expressed the view, however, that penalties nonetheless could be assessed, based on the volatization of materials in the impoundment, which possibly could be considered treatment. I agreed that there was an issue and noted Nalco's position that penalties were unjustified in any event, given Nalco's good faith efforts over the past four years to obtain agency guidance on this issue and the measures Nalco already has committed and begun to undertake to address EPA's concerns.

In a subsequent telephone conversation, I suggested that volatization of the materials in the impoundment was not subject to regulation under RCRA because the term "solid waste" did not include uncontainerized gases. See 40 C.F.R. § 261.2(a) and (b). As to the material in the impoundment, I do not believe treatment has occurred. The term "treatment" is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 270.2 as:

...any method, technique, or process...designed to change the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of any hazardous waste so as to neutralize such wastes, or so as to recover energy or material resources from the waste, or so as to render such waste non-hazardous, or less hazardous; safer to transport, store, or dispose of; or amenable for recovery, amenable for storage, or reduced in volume.

Ms. Mary Kale October 31, 1985
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As we discussed, the impoundment was not designed to reduce volume and any reduction in volume is incidental and not necessary or desirable for reuse. Nalco has no interest in treating the water in the impoundment. I, therefore, do not believe that treatment has occurred any more than if the material had been placed in a storage tank from which some venting occurred. I do not believe the imposition of penalties, based on emissions from the impoundment, is justifiable.

I thank you and Carla, Bill, Will and Ann for the opportunity to discuss these matters and look forward to seeing you again on November 8, with the hope that this matter will be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of EPA, the Texas Water Commission, and Nalco. As we discussed, any settlement that we reach would include a release of any liability for potential claims that the Commission might have regarding facts described in the documents provided you by the Commission.

Sincerely,

Jeff Civins

JC:sq

cc: Carla Nelson



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VI INTERFIRST TWO BUILDING, 1201 ELM STREET DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

PR 02 1985

Jeff Civins, Esquire Vinson and Elkins First City Center 816 Congress Avenue Austin, Texas 78701-2496

Re: Nalco Chemical Company Odessa, Texas facility RCRA Docket No. VI-508-H

Dear Mr. Civins:

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 1986, requesting that EPA provide an interpretation of the new definition of solid waste as it may apply to the storage of tank and barrel rinsings in closed, above-ground storage tanks. We have also reviewed the February 26, 1986, letter sent to you by the Texas Water Commission (TWC) which provided their opinion on the same subject.

It is our opinion that the tank and barrel rinsings to be stored in the closed, above-ground tanks, as described in your letter, are not solid wastes if they are applied to the land and that is their ordinary manner of use. See 40 CFR 261.2(c)(1)(B)(ii) and the technical correction contained in 50 Fed.Reg. 14219 (April 11, 1985) which clarifies the regulatory status of commercial chemical products that are not listed in 40 CFR §261.33. Since placing these rinsings into the oil and gas wells as corrosion inhibitors and emulsion breakers is considered application to the land and this placement is the ordinary use of the product, the rinsings are not solid wastes. This interpretation is premised on the assumption that the rinsings will be managed in a manner consistent with that used to manage product, i.e., in closed tanks so as to prevent volatilization. We have discussed this interpretation with TWC and they have concurred.

We hope that this letter addresses your question. Should you have further questions, please call Carla S. Nelson at (214) 767-9980.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Taylor, Jr.

Chief, Enforcement Section

Minor Brooks Hibbs, Chief Permits Section Hazardous and Solid Waste Division Texas Water Commission P.O. Box 13087, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

Audrone M. Karalius Legal Department Nalco Chemical Company 2901 Butterfield Road Oak Brook, Illinois 60521

TEXAS WATER COMMISSION

Paul Hopkins, Chairman
Ralph Roming, Commissioner
John O. Houchins, Commissioner



Larry R. Soward, Executive Director

Mary Ann Hefner, Chief Clerk
James K. Rourke, Jr., General Counsel

February 26, 1986

Mr. Jeff Civins
Vinson and Elkins
Pirst City Centre
816 Congress Avenu
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Civins:

Re: Nalco Chemical Company
Odessa Facility
Industrial Solid Waste Registration No. 31479

We have reviewed your correspondence of February 18, 1986 requesting clarification of the applicability of RCRA requirements to the proposed installation of two above-ground tanks to store product tank truck and barrel rinsewater. Also, clarification is requested regarding the applicability of RCRA requirements to the subsequent use of the rinsewater as makeup water for injecting Nalco products down customer oil and gas wells.

It is the opinion of the Texas Water Commission that the proposed tanks and the use of the products contained in the rinsewater would not constitute waste management activities subject to RCRA regulation if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The tanks are used for the storage of product tank truck and barrel rinsewater, and the constituent(s) of the rinsewater which would cause it to be a hazardous waste due to the characteristic of ignitability are used as an effective substitute for commercial product(s) injected down the oil and gas wells of Nalco's customers;
- (2) The rinsewater is handled in a manner consistent with its use as a commercial product substitute (i.e., enclosed containers or tankage which are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so as to prevent any significant losses);
- (3) The constituent(s) of the rinsewater which would cause it to be a hazardous waste are used under the same controlled conditions as the virgin material(s) for which they substitute, and the use of these constituent(s) results in consideration from the customer similar to that given for the virgin material(s) for which they substitute (e.g., monetary consideration); and

Records should be kept documenting that conditions (1) through (3) are met, and such records should be available for inspection at the Odessa facility.

Mr. Civins
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February 26, 1986

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Kelly Meloy of this office at AC512/463-8190.

Sincerely,

Minor Brooks Ribbs, Chief

Permits Section

Hazardous and Solid Waste Division

KLM:bb

cc: Will Focht, EPA - Dallas

TWC District 10 Office - Odessa